Structures and Standards for Bibliographic Data

Library of Congress
Working Group on the Future of Bibliographic Control

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Overview

- Comic relief
- Standards and structures
  - “standards” landscape and challenges
- Working group questions
- More questions
- Conclusions

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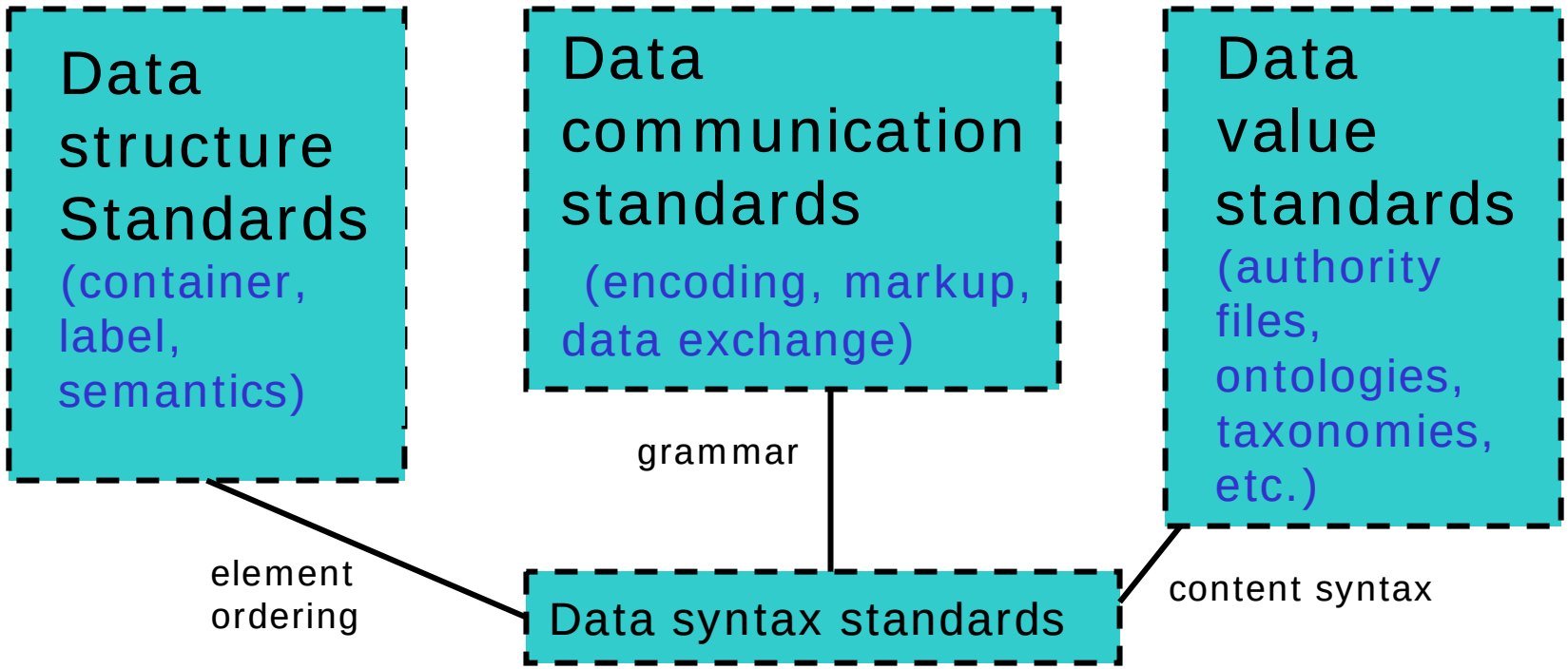
"Never, ever, think outside the box."

iT's a LiBRaRY, HoNey-- KiND of aN eaRLY VeRSioN oF THe WORLD WiDe WeB.
edSTeiN '96
Rocky Mtn. News - Nea

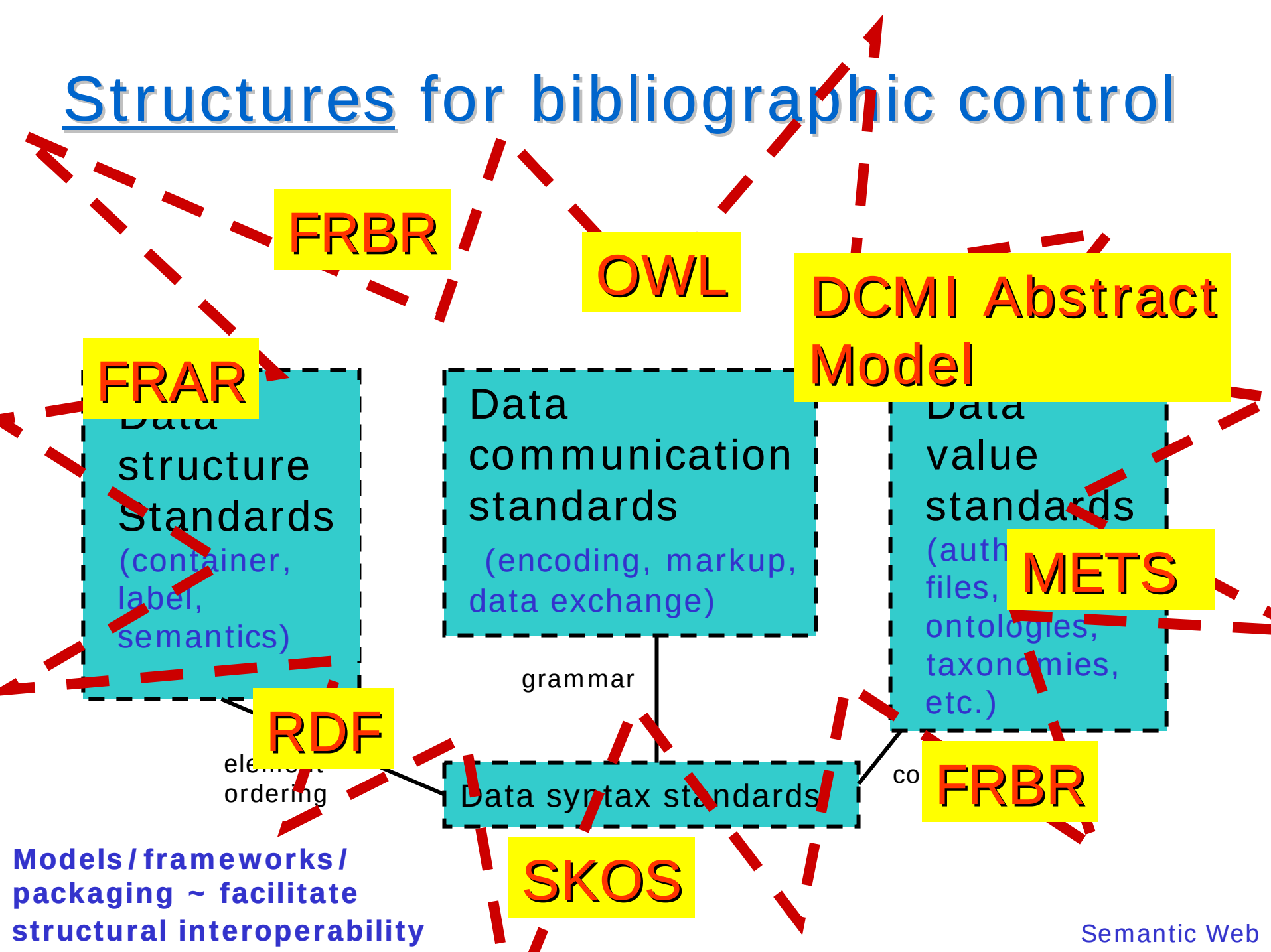
“Standards”/structures

- Conceptual map

Standards for bibliographic control



Structures for bibliographic control



Models / frameworks / packaging ~ facilitate structural interoperability

"Standards"
(We use encode and package bibliographic data)

- Agreed upon statements to control action or product
  - Professional consensus/best practice
    - Knowledgeable practitioners, thinkers, leaders
- Why?
  - Highly technical culture,
  - ***Need*** for smooth operation
- Intimidating
  - Overwhelming, inflexible, vary in scope/complexity,
- Political, emotional

Bibliographic universe ≈??

Traditional

World of recorded knowledge

Bibliographic entities

- Books
- Images
- Sound recordings
- Archives
- Music

Evolved/evolving+

World of information output
data, information, knowledge…

Information objects

- Bibliographic entities
- People
- Places
- Activities/events
- Data
- Relationships

Working group questions

Classification of questions addressing bibliographic control "standards"

- Need
- Use
- Development
- New applications

Need

- What kinds of "standards" are needed?
  - All kinds of standards
    - Depends on functions, users, information objects…continuum
  - *What standards in which context?*
    - Dublin Core: Major health study, consumer health?
    - *übermodel!*
- Are our "standards" adequate?
  - Yes – good work, nothing better (evolutionary biology CV/SKOS), application profiles (DCMI)
  - No – still developing standards

Use

- How can we make better use of current standards?
  - Easily accessible, sharable
    - W3C thesaurus links (http://www.w3.org/2001/sw/Europe/reports/thes/thes_links.html)
    - Open standards: XML, MARC-XML, SKOS, etc.
    - Registries: NSDL Registry/Sandbox (http://beta.metadataregistry.org/about.html?symfony=3916535450f37b295d48d12c7d66046d) →
    - Harper and Tillett's chapter in *Knitting the Semantic Web* (2007), *spread the joy!!*
- How can we take advantage rich legacy data?
  - Covert to open an interoperable standards, xml..
  - Do not dumb down where things work! / **ROI**
    - PCC, Dublin Core / **stream lining**

NSDL Registry~
a *model for* access to standards

Development

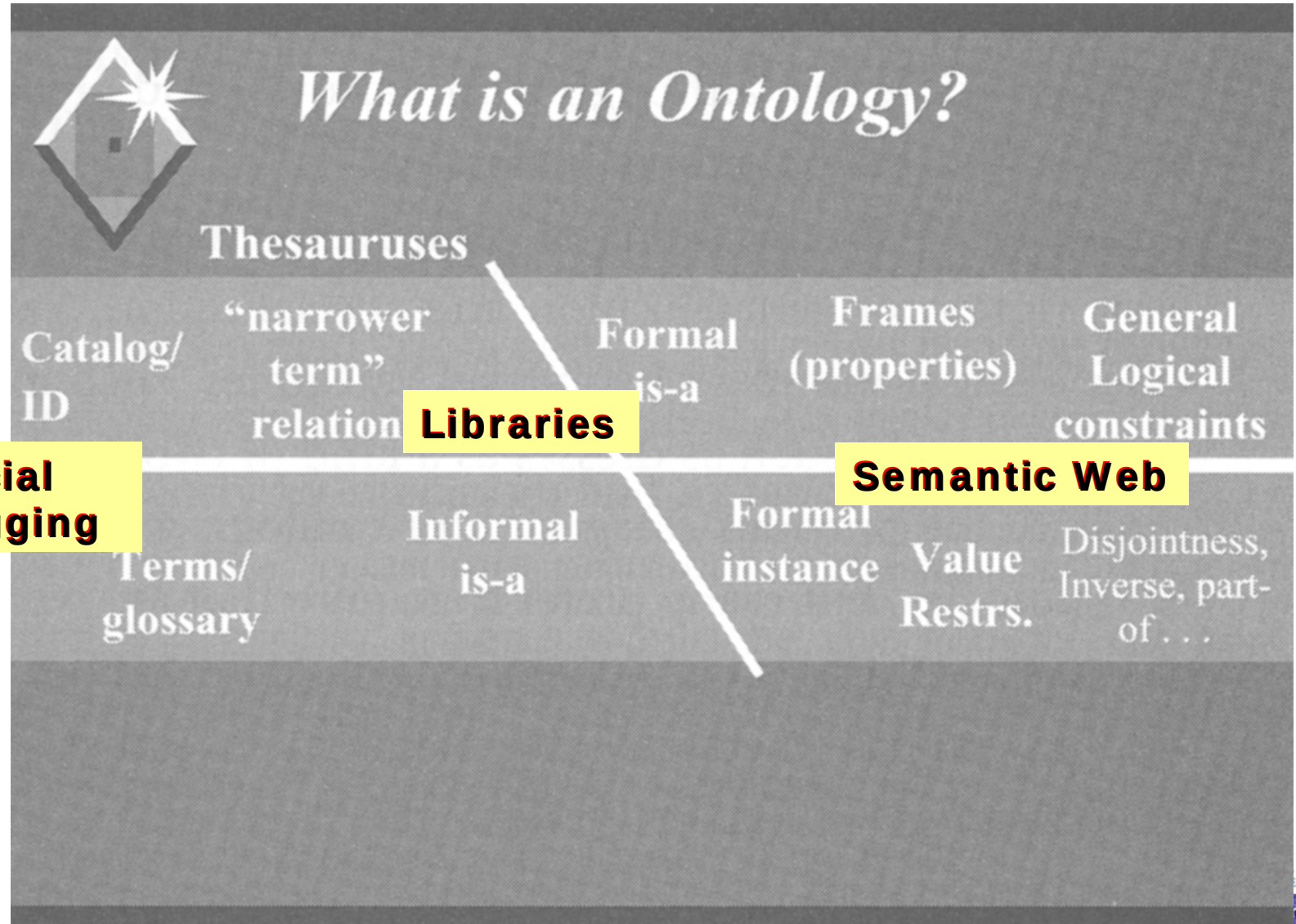
- What communities need to have input?
  - All communities, open forum
  - Leadership from the library community
    - Society's chief information custodian..; close the Semantic Web/library gap (Greenberg, 2007)
    - AMeGA report, functionalities (http://www.loc.gov/catdir/bibcontrol/lc_amega_final_report.pdf) (Greenberg, et al, 2005)
- What organizations and organizational structures...?
    - Standards making organizations (NISO, W3C, etc.), and professional associations/committees charged with reviewing/ratifying standards
    - Organizational structure... don't know...streamline?

New applications

- What is the relationship between traditional bibliographic control practices, the Semantic Web, and social tagging?
  - A continuum, one that can be taken advantage of... →
    - Harness the bibliographic activity of everyone
    - Librarian/cataloger's role is evolving to not only create bibliographic data, but to promote good bibliographic practices, extend the use of standards

Ontology Continuum

(in *Spinning the Semantic Web*, McGuinness, 2003)



New applications

- What standards requirements are becoming evident due to new emphases
  - Data integration, sharing/reuse different data flows
  - Preservation metadata, contextual metadata, tracking the life-cycle of an object
    - Digital life-cycle management
      - Born digital/scan → ingest/accession → describe → access/use → track/maintain → de-accession (accordingly)
    - Integrity, authenticity, use/reuse…

My questions

My questions

1. What structures/standards are needed in which contexts?
   - Will FRBR work for institutional repositories?
   - Should we pushing for CVs in social networks?
   - *übermodel!*
2. Which data creation methods should be used?
   - People, methods, and cost
3. How can we improve bibliographic/ metadata quality (*JCDL,* Lagoze, 2006, Mitchell, 2006, Paytner, et al 2005)
4. Interoperability
   - What may be the limits on our goal to achieve interoperability?

Conclusions

- Bibliographic universe changing
  - World of Information Output
- Positive attitude
  - Exciting time
  - Conceptualize the research questions
- Balance in our approach

Thank you!

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